

Albrecht Dürer, 1471-1528
Portrait of a Clergyman (Johann Dorsch?)



KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER

K1702

IDENTIFIER

1666

ARTIST

Dürer, Albrecht, 1471-1528

NATIONALITY

German

DATE

1516

MEDIUM

oil on parchment on fabric

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

painted surface: 41.7 x 32.7 cm (16 7/16 x 12 7/8 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Paul von Praun [d. 1616] and descendents, Nuremberg, by 1719 until at least 1801. [1] Count Johann Rudolph Czernin von Chudenitz [1757-1845], Vienna, by 1821; [2] by inheritance through the family of the Counts Czernin, Vienna; Count Eugen Czernin von Chudenitz [1892-1955], Vienna, until 1950; (Frederick Mont, New York, and Newhouse Galleries, New York); [3] purchased 1950 by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York; gift 1952 to NGA. [1] Stadtarchiv, Nuremberg, Familienarchiv von Praun, E28, No. 1477, unpublished manuscript, *Inventar des Paulus von Praunschen Kunstkabinetts im Stiftungshaus am alten Weinmarkt* ... (1719) 9: "N.119 Von Albr. Dürer Johann Dorsch gewesen Pfarrers bei St./Johannis contrefait auf Pergament von öel/farb gemahlt, mit ein Schüber, Das Gemäl/ist 18 [sic] S. [chuh] 4 Z[oll] hoch und i.8 S. [chuh] 1. Z[oll] breit." (Letter of 9 April 1977 to John Hand from Dr. Max Nüchterlein, Nuremberg, as well as a photocopy of the inventory entry and a transcription are in NGA curatorial files.)

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A *Schuh* is a unit of measurement equal to approximately one foot, while a *Zoll* equals approximately one inch. See John Henry Alexander, *Universal Dictionary of Weights and Measures, Ancient and Modern; Reduced to the Standards of the United States of America* (Baltimore, 1850) 103-104, 124-125. In the cemetery of the Saint Johannis church in Nuremberg, John Hand found a label accompanying an iron "Grabsteinmass," used for measuring graves, which indicated that a "Nurnberger Werkschuh" equaled 27.84 cm. The dimensions given in Christopher Theophile de Murr, *Description du cabinet de Monsieur Paul de Praun à Nuremberg* . (Nuremberg, 1797) 14, are: "Haut. 1 Pied, 4 Pouces; Larg. 1 Pied, 1 Pouce." Joseph Heller, *Das Leben und die Werke Albrecht Dürer's*, 3 vols., Bamberg, 1827: 2:231, gives the German equivalent as: "1 Sch[uh] 4 Z[oll] hoch, 1 Sch[uh] 1 Z[oll] breit." [2] Heller 1827, 260, cites the painting as being in the Czernin collection in 1821, but seems unaware that this is the same painting that he noted earlier in the Praun collection. His description, however, is clearly that of the Gallery's picture, "Brustbild eines Mannes, welcher nach Rechts gewendet ist, mit dem Zeichen und der Jahrzahl AD 1516. Grüner hintergrund auf Leinwand; ohnegefähr 15Z. hoch, 10Z. breit." The mention of *Leinwand* suggests but does not confirm that the backing with fabric took place before 1827. [3] Letter of Frederick Mont to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 6 February 1950, in NGA curatorial files. Nancy Marshall of Newhouse Galleries, in a letter to John Hand of 3 May 1988, in NGA curatorial files, noted that from the extant records it was unclear whether the painting was owned jointly or given on consignment. Marshall did confirm that the number 57737 on a paper sticker on the reverse was a Newhouse Galleries number, as indicated by Colin Eisler, *Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian*, Oxford, 1977: 16. The bill of sale to the Kress Foundation for the painting, dated 3 May 1950, is on Newhouse Galleries letterhead (copy in NGA curatorial files).

ACCESSION NUMBER

1952.2.17

KRESS NUMBER

1702

LEGACY NGA NUMBER

1100

1 ACQUISITION

Newhouse Galleries, May 3, 1950

1 DISTRIBUTION

Gift to National Gallery of Art, February 21, 1952

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.41600.html>

Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jkvq/alma99141203804896

Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

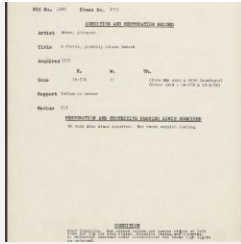
<https://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/research/publications/pdfs/german-painting-fifteenth-through-seventeenth-centuries.pdf>

5 ARCHIVAL ITEMS



K1702 - Photograph, circa 1930s-1960s

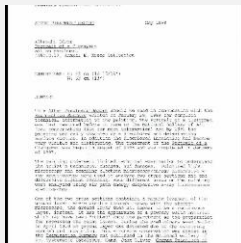
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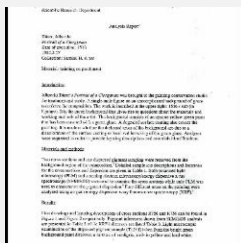
K1702 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s



K1702 - Examination summary and treatment proposal, 1988



K1702 - Treatment report, 1998



K1702 - Scientific analysis report, 1998

RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/1666>